Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 00350 201013Z

15
ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 DLOS-03 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CG-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 EPA-01 L-02 NSF-01

NSC-05 PM-03 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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R 200931Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8848
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USUN NEW YORK 517
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0350

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, IMCO, MY
SUBJ: GOM VIEWS ON SHOWA MARU INCIDENT

REF: A. KL 321
B. SINGAPORE 253
C. TOKYO 636
D. STATE 9256

1. SUMMARY: MALAYSIAN MFA OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED THAT PM RAZAK HAS PROPOSED A FOREIGN MINISTER-LEVEL MEETING OF INDONESIA, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA (TRIPARTITE GROUP) TO DISCUSS METHODS TO ACHIEVE SAFETY OF SHIPPING IN THE MALACCA STRAITS AND TO GUARANTEE FULL COMPENSATION SHOULD POLLUTION OCCUR. OFFICIAL ALSO CONVEYED MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 00350 201013Z

EPA STUDY OF USE OF DISPERSANTS IN THE SHOWA MARU INCIDENT,

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

ASKING ONLY THAT ONE OR TWO MALAYSIAN SCIENTISTS BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT GOM DID NOT PLAN ACTION IN SUPPORT OF ITS CLAIM OF TERRITORIALITY OVER WATERS IN THE STRAITS PENDING RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER IN THE UNITED NATIONS LOS CONFERENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET JAN 20 WITH YEOP ADLAN, A MALAYSIAN DELEGATE TO THE CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE AND CURRENTLY PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF LOS MATTERS FOR MFA, TO DISCUSS MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS RE THE SHOWA MARU OIL SPILL. WITH REGARD TO THE REPORTED REQUEST BY PM RAZAK FOR A TRIPARTITE MEETING OF THE MALACCA STRAIT STATES, YEOP CONFIRMED THAT THE MALAYSIANS WERE SEEKING A FOREIGN MINISTERS'-LEVEL MEETING IN FEBRUARY, HE SAID GOM PROBABLY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY MIN OF INFORMATION AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS RITHAUDEEN AND PETRONAS CHIEF RAZALEIGH HAMZAH. THIS MEETING WILL DISCUSS METHODS TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM SAFETY OF SHIPPING IN THE MALACCA STRAIT AND MEANS FOR GUARANTEEING THAT THE COASTAL STATES RECEIVE FULL COMPENSATION SHOULD AN INCIDENT OCCUR. YEOP SAID THAT THE TRIPARTITE GROUP HAS MET THREE TIMES PREVIOUSLY BUT HAS NOT YET AGREED FULLY ON MODIFICATIONS OF THE IMCO PLAN FOR CONTROL OF TRAFFIC IN THE STRAITS WHICH WAS FORWARDED SOMETIME AGO. HE DID NOT BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT A PLAN WOULD BE READY FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JUNE 1975 IMCO MEETING.

3. MALAYSIA WILL RAISE THIS MATTER AT THE UPCOMING ASEAN MEETING NEXT MONTH MERELY TO KEEP ITS ASEAN PARTNERS INFORMED AND WILL NOT MAKE ANY PROPOSALS IN THE ASEAN CONTEXT. YEOP SAID THAT IN THE MALAYSIAN VIEW, REGULATIONS ON SAFETY IN THE STRAITS SHOULD BE FURMULATED BY THE TRIPARTITE GROUP BUT THAT THE THREE COUNTRIES WOULD WANT IMCO COOPERATION IN IMPLEMENTATION. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION VIS A VIS TRAFFIC IN THE STRAITS REMAINS THE SAME, I.E., THAT THEY DO NOT PLAN TO TAKE ANY ACTION UNTIL THE MATTER HAS BEEN DECIDED AT THE LOS CONFERENCE.

4. YEOP INFORMED EMBOFF OFFICIALLY THAT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE CONTROVERSY OVER DISPERSANTS AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 00350 201013Z

WOULD WELCOME A STUDY BY EPA OF THE ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF THEIR USE (REF D). NOTING THAT GOM IS SADLY LACKING IN THE EXPERTISE REQUIRED IN THESE MATTERS, YEOP ASKED THAT ONE OR TWO MALAYSIAN SCIENTISTS BE ALLOWED TO OBSERVE OR PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY. HE ALSO ASKED IF A MALAYSIAN SCIENTIST COULD MEET WITH DR. HAROLD SYNDER, EPA'S OBSERVER IN SINGAPORE, TO DISCUSS THE ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE SPILL. KUALA LUMPUR HAS TELEPHONED EMBASSY SINGAPORE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

REGARDING THIS REQUEST AND IT IS PREPARED TO FACILI-
TATE SUCH A MEETING ONCE A MALAYSIAN CANDIDATE
IS NAMED.
UNDERHILL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
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